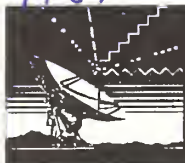


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300



USDA
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
MAY 25 1995
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SERIALS SECTION

Letter No. 2708

April 7, 1995

"I DON'T LIKE TO MUCK AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROP YEAR" -- USDA's new Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said that was the reason he didn't change the corn acreage reduction percentage from 7.5%. During his first news conference from the new USDA radio studio, Glickman talked about his priorities as the Agriculture Secretary, the farm bill timetable and the importance of export programs. He says his priorities are to preserve the basic commodity programs, to keep the export programs in place and to keep the food nutrition programs working. He also wants to balance the environmental needs of the country with those of its people. Glickman said he and his staff are working on farm bill proposals right now and he expects to present them to Congress in the next 30 days. He said he expects those proposals to make it through the committees in June, to be on the floor before the August congressional recess and finished by September 30. As to the future of U.S. agricultural programs, Glickman says that lies in the sale of value-added and bulk commodities, and continuing the Export Enhancement Program. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

CHICKEN DINNERS RECALLED FROM 29 STATES -- The presence of pieces of hard plastic in some chicken dinners is the reason for the Campbell Soup Company to recall all 9-ounce packages of its "Swanson Kids Fun Feast Chompin' Chicken Drumlets." The dinners were distributed in 29 states around the country and feature breaded chicken nugget patties, mashed potatoes, corn and a brownie. The recall was prompted when 3 people in three different states found hard plastic in the product. The decision was made to recall all 62,000 dinners from a full day of production. Consumers are urged to return the product to the place they purchased it from, or contact either the Swanson Frozen Foods inquiry line at 1-800-637-7698 or USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. **Contact: Stephen Lombardi (202) 720-9113.**

PLANTING THAT IS AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER -- Now farmers can determine just how hard or how soft they want their ground tamped down after planting. An attachment was developed by Agriculture Research Service Engineer Lyle Carter that allows growers to plant their seeds at the right depth and the right pressure for compacting the soil. The attachment, which is bolted to a tractor's tool bar frame, could boost seedling survival. The hydraulically controlled tool is the only one of its kind that allows growers to set the controls for each of these two functions. Carter says, "It can give you as much force as you need to cut a slot for seeds in hard, dry soil...But it can be feather light-if necessary-when covering the newly planted seed." The hydraulics on the device automatically readjust depth and pressure to the preset levels as the tractor moves across the field. Conventional depth-control devices can't be easily readjusted on the go. Having adjustable depth control could boost the seedling survival rate since emerging seedlings that are buried too deep may die before they reach sunlight because they use up all their food reserves. **Contact: Lyle M. Carter (805) 746-6391.**

ON THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman will host six rural forums around the country to discuss the issues facing rural families and communities. Glickman will be on hand at each of the forums to be held in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Dakota and Illinois. He will be joined by President Bill Clinton at the National Rural Conference April 25 to be held in Ames, Iowa. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

WOOL AND MOHAIR PRICE SUPPORT RATES ANNOUNCED -- Price support payments to wool and mohair producers are set to be issued in mid-April. USDA announced the 1994 marketing year price support payment rates for shorn wool, wool on unshorn lambs (pulled wool) and mohair. The shorn wool support payment of 167.9 percent brings the 1994 average wool price of \$.78 per pound up to the support level of \$2.09 per pound. The payment rate for wool on unshorn lambs is set at \$5.24 per hundredweight. The mohair support price for the 1994 marketing year is \$4.739 per pound and the payment rate is 85.1 percent. Price support payments won't be made to producers who received more than four times the national average price. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

LEGS AND DRUMSTICKS MAY JOIN THE FLOCK -- A test is underway to see if chicken legs and drumsticks should be graded the same way boneless poultry breasts, thighs and tenderloins, and skinless carcasses and parts are. USDA received grading requests from processors who market these ungraded products. The processors feel there is an advantage to marketing grade-identified poultry products since consumers rely on the USDA grade mark as an assurance of quality. Poultry grading is a voluntary program provided on a fee-for-service basis. The test period will end April 1, 1996. **Contact: Gil High (202) 720-8998.**

DAN GLICKMAN BECAME THE 26TH SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON MARCH 30.

U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture

Name	Dates in Office	Home State
Norman Jay Coleman	Feb. 15, 1889 - March 6, 1889	Missouri
Jeremiah McLain Rusk	March 6, 1889 - March 6, 1893	Wisconsin
Julius Sterling Morton	March 7, 1893 - March 5, 1897	Nebraska
James Wilson	March 6, 1897 - March 5, 1913	Iowa
David Franklin Houston	March 6, 1913 - Feb. 2, 1920	Missouri
Edwin Thomas Meredith	Feb. 2, 1920 - March 4, 1921	Iowa
Henry Cantwell Wallace	March 5, 1921 - Oct. 25, 1924	Iowa
Howard Mason Gore	Nov. 22, 1924 - March 4, 1925	W. Virginia
William Marion Jardine	March 5, 1925 - March 4, 1929	Kansas
Arthur Mastick Hyde	March 6, 1929 - March 4, 1933	Missouri
Henry Agard Wallace	March 4, 1933 - Sept. 4, 1940	Iowa
Claude Raymond Wickard	Sept. 5, 1940 - June 29, 1945	Indiana
Clinton Presbe Anderson	June 30, 1945 - May 10, 1948	New Mexico
Charles Franklin Brannan	June 2, 1948 - Jan. 20, 1953	Colorado
Ezra Taft Benson	Jan. 21, 1953 - Jan. 20, 1961	Utah
Orville Lothrop Freeman	Jan. 21, 1961 - Jan. 20, 1969	Minnesota
Clifford Morris Hardin	Jan. 21, 1969 - Nov. 17, 1971	Nebraska
Earl Lauer Butz	Dec. 2, 1971 - Oct. 4, 1976	Indiana
John Albert Knebel	Nov. 4, 1976 - Jan. 20, 1977	Virginia
Bob Bergland	Jan. 23, 1977 - Jan. 20, 1981	Minnesota
John Rusling Block	Jan. 23, 1981 - Feb. 14, 1986	Illinois
Richard Edmund Lyng	March 7, 1986 - Jan. 21, 1989	California
Clayton Yeutter	Feb. 16, 1989 - March 1, 1991	Nebraska
Edward Rell Madigan	Mar. 12, 1991 - Jan. 20, 1993	Illinois
Mike Espy	Jan. 22, 1993 - Dec. 31, 1994	Mississippi

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 1975 -- A conversation with the new Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is the focus of this week's edition of Agriculture USA. ****Note to broadcasters: Beginning with programs aired the week of April 17, Agriculture USA will switch to a shorter, five minute format.**

CONSUMER TIME # 1454 -- The new Agriculture Secretary talks about the Forest Service. Safety testing for new veterinary drugs. Help for rural communities. Landscaping with annuals and perennials. Potato trends. (Weekly cassette -- consumer features).

AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1966 -- The new Agriculture Secretary outlines his new farm policy. Plans for planting. Pesta pasta packs a parasite. Reducing risk by diversifying. China, a giant of a market. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWS LINE -- Wednesday, April 19, agricultural outlook. Friday, April 21, livestock, dairy and poultry; cattle on feed; livestock slaughter; agricultural trade update. Tuesday, April 25, weather and crops. Wednesday, April 26, floriculture. Thursday, April 27, tobacco markets and trade. Friday, April 28, agricultural prices; catfish production. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our NEWS LINE carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWS LINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.
COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545
 Material changed at 5 p.m., ET, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Eric Parsons reports on 1995 wheat/feed grains loan rates.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- Patrick O'Leary reports on USDA research on controlling white flies with natural fungus.

ACTUALITIES -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman sworn in at the White House, April 5. USDA Economist Tom Capehart on the U.S. agricultural trade surplus. USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, James Lyons, announces interim USDA wetlands delineation policy.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHZ. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHZ.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services.
Call Larry A. Quinn (202)720-6072 or write 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 202050-1300.

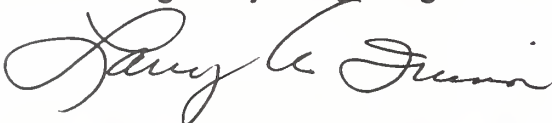
OFF MIKE

SECRETARY GLICKMAN...was the first studio guest in our new radio center. The entire move of studio and office equipment was completed and technical transition was done between 5:00 p.m. last Friday and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday morning when Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman held a news conference from the new location via our teleconference bridge with farm broadcasters around the country. **Brenda Curtis-Heiken, Lori Spiczka Holm** and **Gary Crawford** spent many of their weekend hours here helping us to settle in to the new home for our radio team. We moved from the Administration Building to a location adjacent to our TV studio in the South Agriculture Building.

TV INTERVIEWS...with **Secretary Glickman** were done live via satellite from our TV studio last Friday with 11 TV stations. This was at the end of the Secretary's second day in office. In his interviews, Glickman said he would be traveling to six regional Rural Forum sites this month in Texas, North Dakota, Georgia, California, Pennsylvania and Illinois. **Secretary Glickman** will join **President Clinton** for a National Rural Forum in Ames, IA on April 25.

VISITORS THIS WEEK...included **Al Pell**, news anchor, and **Don Greene**, producer for Ag Day Television Network (South Bend, IN) who were here to interview Secretary Glickman and videotaped the first live event from our radio studio. Last week, **Pam Jahnke-Welch** (WTSO, Madison, WI) witnessed Secretary Glickman's welcome by USDA employees and caught him for an interview after the ceremony.

AGRICULTURE HEARING...will be held in Dodge City, KS, on April 26, reports **Rex Childs** (KFDD-AM/FM, Wichita, KS). This is one of four meetings the full House Agriculture Committee is conducting around the country in preparation for 1995 Farm Bill discussions. Rex says 73-degree temperatures this week were making the wheat crop look great with some plants already reaching the "jointing" stage.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center

Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Communications
Room 1618-S
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